APOLLO 13 EVENING NEWS REPORTS (4-6 -1970 -4-10-1970)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_GOITGjZJY (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_GOITGjZJY)

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From April 6th, - April 10th, 1970 CBS, NBC and ABC NEWS Evening news reports of the upcoming Apollo 13 mission.

Apollo 13 Crew:
Commander: Jim Lovell
CM Commander: Jack Swigert
LM Pilot: Fred Haise

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is threatening man's next mission to the moon dr charles barry director of medical operations said today all three apollo 13 astronauts were exposed yesterday to german measles ferry said the crew james lovell thomas mattingly and fred hayes are now in good physical condition but the results of tests for german measles will not be known until wednesday those results could postpone the launching scheduled for saturday and if that happens the next available launch date is may 9. the case of german measles to which the astronauts were exposed was contracted by charles duke a member of the backup crew on the technical side a fuel pressure problem has been solved and the countdown is continuing there is at least the possibility tonight that a case of german measles could delay the flight of apollo 13. one of the backup astronauts has come down with the german measles and all three of the prime astronauts have been exposed to it if any of the astronauts is going to develop the disease it'll show up on wednesday apollo 13 is scheduled to be launched on saturday say the three astronauts are in good health for their flight to the moon saturday but they're a little worried because yesterday they were exposed to a child who had german measles and so they're being tested now to see if there is any chance of their having measles on the moon blood tests revealed that the apollo 13 astronauts have satisfactorily satisfactory immunity to german measles although a member of the backup crew does have the disease the results are not final and more tests will be taken but as of now all plans are on for saturday's scheduled blast off for the moon the countdown for apollo 13 continued today but it's not all together certain it will go off as scheduled on saturday the astronauts have been exposed to german measles laval has been declared immune but mattingly and haze have developed antibodies in their blood and it won't be known until thursday whether this means they are immune or have contracted the disease apollo 13 is go for launch this saturday despite

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is go for launch this saturday despite the fact that all three of the astronauts were recently exposed to german measles nasa physicians obviously believe there is no danger that the astronauts will develop the disease during their flight apollo 13 is scheduled to leave for the moon on saturday but there are complications and there may be a delay because one of the astronauts may be about to have german measles all three were exposed to it last week and it's highly infectious two were found by the doctors to be immune the third command module pilot thomas mattingly is not immune and so the doctors figure that with an incubation period of about 15 days he would develop the measles just about when he was circling the moon alone there is therefore a possibility of delay or of replacing mattingly with another astronaut from the

backup crew but he is not as intensively trained for this flight with this group it's a mild disease beginning with a rash soreness in the nose and the eyes swelling of the lymph glands in the neck the head and a fever it's over in a few days but for mattingly those would be the wrong few days if they have to postpone the flight a month it will cost somewhere close to a million dollars a million dollar case of measles the most expensive measles in the history of the world good night for nbc news if apollo 13 cannot be launched saturday afternoon it can't go until may 9th that's because of the position of the moon and lighting conditions at the apollo's planned landing site to postpone the flight would cost around a half million dollars but a case of german measles could cause a postponement and cost the american taxpayers just that much david schumacher reports from the kennedy space center in florida a debate is underway within nasa over whether to postpone apollo 13 a month or replace a member of the crew the background is this over the weekend

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background is this over the weekend one of the backup astronauts charles duke came down with what appeared to be german measles blood tests indicate two members of the prime crew lovell and hayes have adequate immunity but ken mattingly seems to have no resistance to the disease at all the only way doctors could guarantee that he will not get sick during the flight would be if he got sick before and recovered for the past two days everyone has been watching mattingly closely hoping he would get sick but so far he's refused to cooperate meanwhile tonight doctors are even reassessing the possibility that duke did not have german measles at all but some less serious infection while awaiting the results officials are balancing two alternatives the difficulty of keeping the complex saturn apollo ready to fly for a month when mattingly will be out of danger and the moon will be back in position for another launch attempt or replacing mattingly with backup astronaut john swiger jr swiger's been getting ready all day but there's considerable resistance to breaking up a crew that has trained together additional simulator time has been scheduled to give swigert a chance to work with level and hayes and particularly to prove the level that he's ready to go a final decision must be made by friday night david schumacher cbs news kennedy space center florida 375 million dollar mission of the moon a quarter of a million miles away remains imperiled today by a childhood disease walter cronkite reports from the kennedy space center the countdown goes on and the weather outlook now is good but a big question remains about whether apollo 13 will be launched toward the moon on saturday astronaut thomas mattingly he's known as ken has been just about eliminated from the crew unless there is a postponement it has been confirmed that backup astronaut charles duke has german measles mattingly has been exposed and he is not immune no official announcement but doctors have recommended that he not go this leaves two alternatives postpone the flight until may 9th at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars or substitute backup crewman john swiger jr formattingly as command module pilot

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jr formattingly as command module pilot that's the fellow who stays in orbit while jim lovell and fred hayes land and walk on the moon the decision is expected tomorrow meanwhile ken mattingly he's the one without much hair here has been briefing swaggart a 38 year old civilian space rookie on flight plans and swigert has been working out in simulation equipment here at kennedy space center trying to develop the kind of teamwork with level and hayes that normally takes months it's quite an assignment and here with me now to talk about what's involved is former astronaut and now a veteran of our cbs news team for these launches wally sherrah wally how big a problem is it to put a man in at the last minute two days before a flight like this who hadn't been training with the prime crew i don't think it is a problem now walter we we had all sorts of agonies in the older days you recall we said we couldn't break up the team we couldn't put a new man in at the last minute and we met we had launch schedules or every two months now we have a case where we have six months swagger's been working for one long time he worked with me in the support crew role with apollo 7 which was way back in 68. the other thing is that the command module pilot is really a loner he he has the task of minding the store while the other two are off doing very close teamwork with the lamb landing on the moon so this too relieves the constraint of changing that particular man at the last minute i frankly wouldn't want to change hayes at the last minute in contrast when now lovell's worked with mattingly quite intimately here for a year isn't he likely to feel oh heck let's wait a month and let mattingly get the flight too or

that has to develop but i think back of that uh this is the the tremendous task the command the commander of the mission has is to reflect those personal feelings against the existences of finance the economics the the tremendous cost to delay this mission another month that's not a cheap thing to do a lot of people are brought on at the last minute to do

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are brought on at the last minute to do these various tasks a lot of people brought down from houston in this sense from all over the country the teams are deployed all over the world now for this particular maneuver so we're aware of all these things most of us have been all over the world on the surface looking at these tracking stations they're all prepared to go and the typical statement is the ranges go how about the crew so thank you wally and harry reason that's the way it is at the cape today the flight of apollo 13 is a jive question mark tonight doctors confirmed beyond doubt today that astronaut thomas k mattingly has been exposed to the german measles because his resistance to the disease is extremely low the doctors recommended that he not make the flight the space agency will almost certainly go along with that recommendation john swaggart is the backup pilot and whether the flight goes on saturday hinges on his ability to be ready in time more on the story from abc's science editor jules bergman at cape kennedy it's almost a soap opera script with a life and death plot can a backup pilot jack swigert who hasn't at all the final training fly on the most complex lunar mission we've yet attempted and do everything just right ken swaggart substitute for ken mattingly who's worked for two years with jim level and fred hayes three men who are now so close they understand each other's every gesture and eye motion with no words needed swaggart on the right held long talks today with mattingly and other key flight personnel and then flew many simulator missions with level and hayes swaggart was tested in every step beyond this pilot's proficiency rating quiz the real issue is this can swigert get up to speed in 48 hours on many critical items the backup crew doesn't know jim lovell wants to wait to scrub the flight for a month so mattingly can get over the measles he may get and fly there are three launch days in may but only one this saturday in april chief astronaut deke slayton who came up with the idea of putting swaggart in is the man in the fire he's responsible for isolating crews before a flight

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for isolating crews before a flight had the astronauts been isolated for 21 days as the medics wanted the measles threat would never have developed today dr tom payne the space agency chief told me nasa will get new isolation rules either isolating the crews and everybody who works with them in the weeks before a flight or finding new medical ways of protection payne will make the final decision on the launch tomorrow after talking to spacecraft commander lovell and other officials it's 50 50. this is jules bergman abc news at cape kennedy we're looking down on apollo 13 from the top of the launch tower and as of now that big bird is all set to take off for the moon on schedule at 2 13 pm eastern time tomorrow that was firmed up this afternoon when top space officials decided to substitute backup astronaut john swigert as command module pilot for ken mattingly who's been exposed to german measles the decision came after swaggart had gone through a battery of last-minute tests to determine how well he could team up with the other two crewmen jim lovell and fred hayes that decision involved a good deal of agonizing and at a news conference nasa administrator thomas paine talked about how it was reached the evidence is very substantial that about the time that we would have been conducting the lunar operations that lieutenant commander mattingly would indeed be coming down with symptoms of the measles such that his capacity for successfully carrying out the command module operations are called into question i went to discuss the question with jim lovell fred hayes first in a private meeting with jim for about a half an hour discussing all the aspects of the mission and his feelings about it and then fred hayes joined us and we continued the discussion for perhaps another 10 minutes i can report to you that the recommendation of everyone to whom i talk both in the

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of everyone to whom i talk both in the meeting and in the subsequent meeting with the two astronauts was a unanimous recommendation that apollo 13 be launched tomorrow morning weather prediction not as good as yesterday but better than this morning we have a front that is fairly stationary approximately 100 miles to the north we do not expect it to move in we do not expect squalls but we could have some middle layer clouds and some precipitation tomorrow however we feel based on a prediction of the weather conditions will meet our mission rules incidentally if there should be a postponement tomorrow the new launch date would be may 9th space officials say that mattingly would be put back on the crew addingly of course disappointed and depressed but they say he's taking it philosophically and there's talk tonight that he will be given assignment on a future space moon mission this mission itself temporarily overshadowed by the excitement over the crew in a case of german measles now comes front and center itself unlike its two predecessors which touch down on fairly even terrain apollo 13 is going into very rugged lunar highland areas it's going to rest there for 33 hours during which time level and haze will take two long moon walks conducting scientific experiments setting up a scientific space station hopefully sending back the first color television pictures from the moon's surface swigert will be circling overhead in the command ship cbs news coverage of tomorrow's launch begins at 12 30 p.m eastern time the supporter crime guide kennedy space center florida the space agency said today that apollo 13 will be launched tomorrow on schedule unless the weather turns bad they decided to drop astronaut thomas mattingly from the mission because he had been exposed to german measles and is likely to catch

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german measles and is likely to catch the disease and it substituted for him john swaggart a rookie who has been practicing intensively for the last day and a half to meet such a contingency the announcement was made at cape kennedy uh i can report to you that the recommendation of everyone to whom i taught both in the meeting and in the subsequent meeting with the two astronauts was a unanimous recommendation that apollo 13 be launched tomorrow morning the decision may have been unanimous but there is no question about the attitude of the spacecraft commander james lovell he argued today that mattingly with german measles would still be preferable as a crew member lovell's argument was made without prejudice to the new man john swigert a member of the backup crew for the past two days swigert has been practicing spaceship operations operations where three men must work as one in a very intense run through he has performed well against an extremely tough deadline nobody pretends that swigert has had as much practice as the man he replaces and to make the trip easier for him they have dropped some of the photographic tasks assigned to his job tasks which previously had been assigned is quite significant in the meantime the weather here is good and the forecast for tomorrow's launch is for clouds possibly some rain but they do not expect the squally weather which could delay the launch and the preparations go on the new crew of astronauts will be here tomorrow morning scheduled to lift off just after two in the afternoon eastern time the decision to go ahead with the mission seems to represent nasa management more than it does the astronauts themselves and there is no question that the pressures on james lovell and fred hayes have increased not to mention the pressures on the new man john swigert but these pilots are superbly trained men taught to work well together and if the weather holds they lift off from here tomorrow on apollo 13. apollo 13 is scheduled to

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on apollo 13. apollo 13 is scheduled to be launched at 2 13 p.m eastern time nbc news begins live television coverage of the event at 12 30 p.m eastern time space agency decided today that backup astronaut jack swigert has done his homework and done it well enough to permit apollo 13 to be launched on schedule tomorrow swigert will take the place of thomas mattingly who proved to have not enough resistance to german measles to which he had been exposed nasa administrator thomas paine flew to cape kennedy to announce the go decision i can report to you that the recommendation of everyone to whom i talk both in the meeting and in the subsequent meeting with the two astronauts was a unanimous recommendation that apollo 13 be launched tomorrow morning considering the matter and pondering all that had gone on at the meetings it was my final decision that we will launch follow 13 tomorrow morning weather and other

conditions permitting apollo 13 a new and dangerous voyage to one of the oldest areas of the moon and the riskiest lunar landing yet attempted lies ahead for jim loveland fred hayes from the moon learning is the motto the three astronauts have picked for their 10-day mission jim lovell 42 navy captain on his fourth space strip the man with more hours in space than anybody else and two rookies fred hayes 36 civilian nasa test pilot who'll moon walk with level and back up command pilot jack swigert 38 they'll attempt to land in fraumero a rough hilly highland area similar to the foothills of the rockies it's littered by debris from a mammoth meteorite impact offering chunks of the moon five billion years old loveland hayes will do two moon walks lasting up to five hours each and placing a scientific station a color tv camera will show us

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tv camera will show us live much of what they do to solve the mystery of whether the moon is dead or has a hot core as the earth does hayes will drill two 10-foot deep holes with a battery-powered electric drill and slip a series of heat measuring devices in the holes to tell scientists the precise temperature differences below the surface on their second moonwalk they'll hike two miles to a high rimmed crater to get pictures and samples of how it got there and what has happened to it and if it all seems routine if it seems to lack the wild suspense and drama of apollo 11 perhaps there's a lesson for all of us in men who are willing to press on facing new dangers for new learning even if they weren't there first this is jules bergman abc news at pad 39 dave kennedy jules bergman and i will bring you coverage of the apollo 13 launch tomorrow beginning at 1 30 pm eastern time

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